GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:362
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2007
GROWTH OF POPULATION LIVING IN URBAN SLUMS
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population of urban poor in India is likely to touch 200 million in 2020 as per UN Habitat report;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the reasons for increase in the persons living in the slums in urban areas in the country; and

(d) the steps taken and proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA)

(a)to(d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUEST: NO.362 FOR 27.4.2007 REGARDING GROWTH OF POPULATION LIVING IN URBAN SLUMS.

(a)&(b): The UN-Habitat Report `The State of the World`s Cities 2006-07: The Millenium Development Goals and Urban Sustainability - 30 years of Shaping the Habitat Agenda` does not provide projections of the urban poor population in 2020 but it makes projections of urban slum population in India to be 219.47 million in 2020.

The Government is in agreement with the conclusion in the report that urban poverty and slum development need to be brought to the central stage of the development agenda. `

(c): The reasons for increase in the number of persons living in slums in urban areas in the country, inter-alia, are:

(i) Increase in urbanization due to rural urban migration, natural increase and re-classification of rural areas into urban centres.

(ii) Inability of large section of urban society, especially the poor, to access land and housing in cities and towns, due to spiraling land prices and lack of availability of affordable housing;

(iii) Lack of provision of infrastructure and services in settlements inhabited by the poor due to long periods of inadequate investment in such facilities by urban local bodies; and

(iv) Old areas in cities and towns getting further dilapidated due to lack of maintenance and natural ageing coupled with poor quality of services.

(d): Considering the need to address the issues of slum development and housing in cities and towns, the Government has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with effect from December 3, 2005. Under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) programme, development of housing and provision of basic civic amenities to poor households are addressed in 63 Mission cities. The problems of non-Mission cities are addressed through Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). The components supported by the Government under JNNURM are:

i. Integrated development of slums, i.e. housing and development of infrastructure projects in the slums in the identified cities.
ii. Projects involving development/improvement/ maintenance of basic services to the urban poor.
iii. Slum improvement and rehabilitation projects.
iv. Projects on water supply/sewerage/drainage, community toilets/ baths, etc.
v. Houses at affordable costs for slum dwellers/urban poor/ Economically Weaker Sections/ Lower Income Group categories.
vi. Construction and improvements of drains/storm water drains.
vii. Environmental improvement of slums and solid waste management.
viii. Street lighting.
ix. Civic amenities, like, community halls, child care centres, etc.
x. Operation and maintenance of assets created under this component.
xi. Convergence of health, education and social security schemes for the urban poor.